

REMARKS

Applicant notes that the Examiner has provisionally withdrawn claims 21, 23 and 30 from consideration in the present application as being drawn to a non-elected species. However, since at least claim 17 is generic, and since claim 17 now should be allowable, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner now to also examine claims 21, 23 and 30 in the present application.

Examiner Paumen issues the following two prior art rejections:

(1) Claims 17-20, 26, 31 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by (lacking novelty over) Kocher '071; and

(2) Claims 22, 24, 25, 27, 28 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable (obvious) over Kocher '071.

Applicant respectfully **traverses** both of these rejections.

Rejection (1), based on anticipation, requires that Kocher '071 disclose, either expressly or inherently, each limitation of each of the claims 17-20, 26, 31 and 32, or in other words, that each of these claims be **readable** on Kocher's disclosure.

Applicant respectfully submits that clearly such is not the case here with respect to the presently amended claims and to new claim 33.

Claims 17 and 31 have been amended to describe features of (now canceled) claim 25 and of specification page 6, lines 33-34. The new independent claim 33 includes features of the original claim 17 and of claims 27 and 28.

Kocher '071 describes several embodiments of an electric component mounted on a wristband having an electric connector. In Figures 5 and 6, there is effectively shown an electric connector, such as USB connector, as a male part of a clasp in order to be introduced in a female part of a clasp in a closed position. However, **nothing** is described in Kocher concerning such a clasp having a structure which protects the USB connector when the clasp of the wristband is in a closed position.

In contrast, the present invention provides an electric connector, such as a USB connector, mounted to the end of a wristband strand, and incorporated in a clasp part of the wristband. In the closed position of the clasp, the electric connector is protected on the one hand by the fastening piece of the other end of the wristband, which covers the electric connector in closed position, and on the other hand by "bellows" which are "slightly compressed against a sleeve fixed to the end of the wristband strand including the electric connector."

Thus, with the bellows placed around the electric connector, the connector is well protected against environmental conditions, which is not described or even suggested by Kocher. Furthermore, the features of these amended claims 17 and 31 cannot be considered as general knowledge of a person skilled in the relevant art. Applicant is unaware of any wristband clasps using bellows to protect an electric connector.

Thus, it is clear that none of claims 17-20, 26, 31 and 32 (and 33) is readable on Kocher's disclosure, whereby Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) insofar as it may be applied to the present amended claims 17-20, 28, 31 and 32, and claim 33.

With respect to rejection (2), Applicant above explains the deficiencies in Kocher's disclosure; i.e., claim elements which Kocher neither discloses nor suggests.

Therefore, since the **dependent** claims 22, 24, 25, 27, 28 and 29 inherit the limitations of their parent claim 17, Applicant respectfully submits that Kocher does not disclose or even suggest all of the limitations of these rejected claims (and new claim 33), whereby Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner also to reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In particular, Applicant notes that none of the prior art appears to even mention the use of bellows to protect the electroconnector; therefore, it is believed that the subject matter of these rejected claims is patentable (non-obvious) over the prior art.

It is also clear that new claim 33 is neither anticipated, nor rendered obvious by Kocher's disclosure.

More particularly, nothing in Kocher's disclosure teaches or even suggests the claimed clasp of the wristband strand including the electroconnector, and wherein said apertures are provided on the length of the strand in order to adapt the size of the strand for a user and to allow fixing of the electroconnector.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 33 is patentable and allowable over the prior art.

In summary, then, because of the **non-readability** of Applicant's claims on Kocher's disclosure, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw rejections (1) and (2), and to allow claims 17-24 and 26-32, together with the new claim 33; however, if for

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to **call the undersigned attorney** to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or § 1.17 necessary to keep this application pending in the Patent and Trademark Office or credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,

/John H. Mion/
John H. Mion
Registration No. 18,879

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
(202) 663-7901

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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